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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Cameroon

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution/1, held its thirtieth session from to 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Cameroon was held at the 15th meeting, on 16 May 2018. The delegation of Cameroon was headed by the Minister of External Relations, Mbella Mbella. At its 18th meeting, held on 18 May 2018, the Working Group adopted its report on Cameroon.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Cameroon: Iraq, South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution/1 and paragraph of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Cameroon:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CMR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CMR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/CMR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Cameroon through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation greeted and thanked all the members of the troika, the representatives of South Africa, the United Kingdom and Iraq, for having accepted to be part of the troika, and assured them of the readiness of the Government of Cameroon to facilitate their work.

6. The head of the delegation committed to replying to the best of his ability to all the concerns raised and to considering the recommendations that would be made.

7. He thanked the treaty bodies, civil society organizations and all stakeholders in the universal periodic review process for their reports, in which they had called the Government's attention to certain aspects of its management of human rights. Their contributions during the preparation of the national report had been useful in understanding current challenges and identifying appropriate solutions.

8. Cameroon had accepted the ratification of seven international conventions under international human rights law and international humanitarian law at the second cycle of the universal periodic review, in 2013. The ratification process of the conventions was in progress and at an advanced stage.

9. Apart from the seven aforementioned conventions, between 2014 and 2016 Cameroon had ratified other instruments at the international and regional levels, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), the African Union Convention on Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa of 22 October 2009, and the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating Terrorism of 1999.

10. The independence and autonomy of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms had been strengthened, particularly through the consolidation of human and financial resources. These positive developments would enable the National Commission to better fulfil its mission.

11. Further improvements had been made to the human rights framework and the conditions in which they were exercised. Emphasis had been placed on combating impunity and training law enforcement personnel.

12. In cooperation with the public authorities, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, civil society organizations and other stakeholders had held seminars and workshops on a regular basis to look into human rights issues, provide training and raise public awareness.

13. Human rights training for law enforcement officials had taken place on an ongoing basis. For example, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and OHCHR, in collaboration with the Government, were running a project whose phases I and II had ended in March/April 2018. The project consisted in providing law enforcement officials with capacity-building and training in the promotion and protection of human rights and respect for the law in the context of counter-terrorism.

14. Efforts to end impunity for law enforcement personnel had progressed considerably since 2013. In 2016, 175 proceedings had been initiated against law enforcement personnel and 14 convictions had been handed down by the military court in connection with the offences of endangering life or causing physical or mental harm. The penalties imposed were recorded in the annual report of the Ministry of Justice on the situation of human rights in Cameroon.

15. The adoption of two new laws on electronic communications and audiovisual activities had facilitated the exercise of the freedoms of expression and communication. Capacity-building sessions had been held to ensure that media professionals adhered to ethics rules.

16. Since the submission of its report, Cameroon had seen developments with the establishment, in February 2018, of the Constitutional Council. The Council had adjudicated disputes in connection with the senatorial elections of 25 March 2018, which had led to the election, for a five-year term, of the senators of the second Senate in the history of the Cameroonian parliament.

17. President Paul Biya and the Government had made every effort to advance economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights. School enrolment figures had been rising steadily, while discussions on the establishment of a mechanism to ensure full coverage were ongoing. The goal was to improve the population's health, especially that of children, adolescents, women, persons living with HIV/AIDS and low-income individuals, by increasing the availability of health-care services and health practitioners.

18. A national multisectoral programme to reduce maternal, neonatal and infant and child mortality for the period 2014–2018 had been developed, along with several action plans, in particular with regard to mother and child health. The aim of the national multisectoral strategic plan to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality for the period 2014–2020 was to reduce maternal mortality.

19. Under the national strategic plan against HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2014–2017, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission through option B+ had begun in 2014. With support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), capacity-building for outreach workers on mother-to-child transmission, voluntary screening and the referral of directly concerned pregnant women living in rural communities to prenatal and mother-to-child transmission prevention services had contributed to the optimization of interventions in rural areas; overall results were satisfactory.

20. In order to enhance the enjoyment of the right to health, a number of projects had focused on increasing the supply of drinking water by building and rehabilitating water

production and catchment plants and extending distribution networks in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. A human resources development plan for the health sector had been drawn up in 2013 with the aim of remedying the shortage of qualified professionals, estimated at 27,753 people, by 2018.

21. The enjoyment of the right to education had progressed considerably since 2013. Emphasis had been placed on providing free primary education by doing away with fees to boost enrolment rates, supporting needy families through the distribution of basic textbooks and clustering of school infrastructure in both rural and urban areas.

22. The school enrolment rate for girls had been promoted through awareness-raising campaigns and incentives, the awarding of scholarships and instructional kits to girls, the provision of snacks and the establishment of school cafeterias in priority education zones, the construction of separate latrines and a range of measures for combating gender-based violence in schools and child marriage.

23. Efforts to reduce poverty and improve the population's standard of living had taken the form of social safety net projects, labour-intensive public works, the Participatory National Development Programme and the second grass-roots poverty reduction subprogramme.

24. Efforts to reduce poverty and improve the standard of living, at a time of worsening economic constraints, had taken the form of assistance for chronically poor households, support for income-generating activities in various fields such as agriculture, the promotion of decent work and ongoing large-scale structural projects.

25. The delegation drew attention to the practical implementation of the three-year emergency growth and employment plan for the period 2014–2017.

26. Attention continued to be paid to the specific concerns of certain population groups with a view to achieving equality in practice. Electoral lists were required to take account of gender. Education incentives for underprivileged groups, as well as initiatives to counter stereotypes and end harmful practices and violence, had also been a focus of government efforts to enable target groups, namely underprivileged indigenous persons, women and persons with disabilities, to fully realize their potential.

27. In order to end discrimination against women and promote gender equality, the National Gender Policy Paper had been adopted in 2014, followed by a multisectoral implementation plan.

28. Cameroon had continued to implement its policy for the integration of persons with disabilities at the strategic and operational levels. The National Policy Paper on the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities and its related action plan for 2017–2021 had been updated.

29. Structural measures had been taken to deliver inclusive education and promote the empowerment and social and occupational integration of persons with disabilities. An interministerial committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of programmes and projects involving indigenous persons had been established in 2013 to coordinate initiatives designed for their benefit.

30. As an investment in the future, the preservation of human capital formed the background of efforts to protect children through initiatives to recognize their legal personality by streamlining the birth registration process, to protect them against violence, to address the situation of street children and to care for orphans and vulnerable children.

31. Improvement of detention conditions was the leitmotif of efforts to realize the rights of detainees not only by enhancing prison infrastructure and facilities but also by improving health and nutrition, for which budgetary allocations had been significantly increased.

32. Efforts to combat torture in prisons had centred on building the capacity of prison staff, monitoring and the imposition of sanctions. The choice of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms as the national torture preventive mechanism was consistent with the goal of preserving the dignity of detainees.

33. During the period under consideration, cooperation with human rights mechanisms had continued. The fact that the State had submitted the requisite reports to the treaty bodies and had responded to various communications illustrated its openness to constructive comments likely to lead to improved respect for the human rights of persons under its jurisdiction.

34. The State had made no secret of the constraints that it faced, both economic and security-related, and which it had been striving to overcome through an inclusive approach that took account of the contributions of the various national actors and other partners. State support in that endeavour was strongly desired by partners, in order to consolidate unity, stability and territorial integrity.

35. Since 2014, the fight against Boko Haram, a terrorist group in the Far North region, and the sociopolitical situation in certain neighbouring countries had led to a large influx of refugees and internally displaced persons. As at October 2017, nearly 236,000 internally displaced persons and 332,000 refugees had relocated to the Eastern, Adamawa and Far North regions.

36. The social crisis in the North-west and South-west regions, which began at the end of 2016, had also affected the realization of certain human rights.

37. Dialogue and the obligation to protect territorial integrity, people and their property, and pacification characterized the response to the above-mentioned social crisis, aimed also at consolidating the government policy of promoting social harmony. In this sense, in addition to the responses to the claims being made, the institutional framework had been strengthened by the decision of the President to create a national commission for the promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

38. Reconciling security and freedom remained a constant challenge for the State, as was the development of information and communications technology.

39. The head of the delegation reiterated the State's commitment to continuing the implementation of the recommendations that Cameroon had accepted in 2013 and those made at the current review.

40. Cameroon would continue to strengthen the good practices it had developed both during the implementation of the recommendations accepted at it its previous review and in the preparation of its third national report. These good practices included the drafting of a timetable of actions and of a road map for the implementation of recommendations, permanent consultations with stakeholders under the supervision of the Prime Minister's office, the briefing conducted by Cameroon with its international partners, and cooperation with the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

41. In addition to the expectations already expressed at the previous review on the capacity-building of actors in the field of human rights and the protection of prisoners, greater support for the fight against terrorism and more burden-sharing and care services and management of refugees were still being sought, as was for national initiatives to foster peaceful coexistence. Much more support for climate change adaptation policies was also desired.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

42. During the interactive dialogue, 76 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue may be found in section II of the present report.

43. Italy appreciated the State's efforts to raise school enrolment rates, including for girls, its review of the Penal Code in 2016, including penalties for female genital mutilation, and its intensification of the fight against enforced marriage.

44. Madagascar welcomed the ratification by Cameroon of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its adoption of article 242 of the Penal Code, while regretting the cases of discrimination against, inter alia, marginalized and indigenous children.

45. Mali noted with satisfaction the State's ratification of the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No.155) and the Paris Climate Agreement. It welcomed its adoption of the Penal Code.

46. Mauritius welcomed the State's decision to sign two international human rights instruments protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and of the child. It commended it for its dedicated national action plans for 2015–2019 and 2017–2021.

47. Mexico acknowledged the progress made by Cameroon in legislation and policies aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and regulating arms and munitions, and also its measures to universalize birth registration.

48. Montenegro welcomed the State's adoption of its National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Cameroon (2015–2019). It urged Cameroon to strengthen the National Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles, and to criminalize female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

49. Mozambique commended Cameroon for having signed and ratified international and regional human rights instruments, its cooperation with treaty bodies and mechanisms and for its engagement with the special procedures.

50. Namibia praised Cameroon for the considerable measures it had taken on human rights, including the adoption of the National Action Plan, despite the security situation and the other challenges it faced.

51. Nepal noted the impact on human rights of the State's National Action Plan, and its promotion of equal access to education and health care. It wished Cameroon further success in curbing gender-based violence and discrimination against women, and in its empowerment of women.

52. The Netherlands welcomed the invitation extended by Cameroon to the special procedures, while expressing concern at reports of discrimination, violence, torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrest and detention in the English-speaking regions of the State.

53. New Zealand was pleased to note the State's participation in the thirtieth session of the universal periodic review.

54. The Niger welcomed the progress made by Cameroon in human rights, including its implementation of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, capacity-building in the judiciary and its emergency plan for growth and employment for 2014–2017.

55. Nigeria commended Cameroon for having adopted and implemented its National Action Plan for 2015–2019, for fighting the impunity of law enforcement officials and for strengthening its promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

56. Poland praised Cameroon for having signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and looked forward to the ratification and incorporation of the Convention into national law.

57. Portugal welcomed the fact that Cameroon had taken positive steps to improve its birth registration system, such as by establishing a national office for civil registration and extending the deadline for registration.

58. The Republic of Korea welcomed the ongoing efforts made by Cameroon to promote the right to health, and was pleased that it had signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

59. Rwanda praised Cameroon for its efforts to promote human rights, in particular women's rights, and to implement the recommendations made, and encouraged the Government to continue to fight gender-based violence.

60. Senegal welcomed the State's efforts to protect and promote human rights, by ratifying the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), providing human rights training to police officers and organizing programmes to fight AIDS.

61. Serbia commended Cameroon for its efforts to organize educational talks for police officers, to establish a police force to assist victims and witnesses of human rights violations, and to fight impunity within the police.

62. Slovakia appreciated the efforts made by Cameroon to protect and promote human rights, but remained concerned about human rights violations reported in the English-speaking regions and allegations of torture of detainees suspected of terrorism.

63. Slovenia commended Cameroon for the amendments recently made to the Penal Code aimed at fighting discrimination and early and forced marriage, but was concerned about the persistence of different forms of violence against women.

64. South Africa welcomed the State's decision to adopt and implement the National Action Plan for 2015–2019.

65. Spain commended Cameroon for having strengthened its national human rights institutions, although it remained concerned about reports of cases of female genital mutilation, forced marriage and the criminalization of same-sex relations.

66. The Sudan praised Cameroon for its efforts to improve the protection and promotion of human rights, and appreciated the State's acceptance of most recommendations and its cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

67. Switzerland welcomed the State's decision to adopt the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, although it remained concerned about human rights violations in the anglophone crisis and within the context of the fight against terrorism.

68. Togo commended Cameroon for the significant progress made in the area of human rights, in particular the measures it had taken to fight poverty and to promote the socioeconomic development of rural and the most vulnerable groups.

69. Tunisia praised Cameroon for the progress it had made in the protection and promotion of human rights, and welcomed the steps taken to establish a national human rights commission.

70. Uganda commended Cameroon for its ratification of international and regional human rights instruments and the establishment of a national commission for the promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

71. Ukraine acknowledged the achievements made by Cameroon since the second review cycle, but expressed concern about the worsening situation of human rights for the English-speaking minority.

72. Although concerned with the human rights violations in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland commended the State for its enactment of the new Penal Code and the application of provisions to address women's rights.

73. The United States of America expressed concern at reports of human rights violations and restrictions on the freedom of association and expression, and expected Cameroon to improve the conditions of detainees and to fight discrimination against vulnerable groups.

74. Uruguay commended Cameroon for its amendment to the Penal Code, the legislative steps taken to promote gender equality and the ongoing ratification of important conventions.

75. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela praised Cameroon for the implementation of its National Action Plan for 2015–2019 and for its national programme to fight maternal, neonatal and child mortality.

76. Viet Nam commended Cameroon for the progress made since the second review cycle, but pointed out the challenges that the State still faced in its fight against terrorism and climate change.

77. Zimbabwe congratulated Cameroon on its progress in implementing the recommendations made during the second review cycle, such as the adoption of the

National Action Plan for 2015–2019 and the development of an emergency growth and employment plan.

78. Afghanistan commended Cameroon for its commitment to implement the recommendations at the previous review cycle, such as on the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

79. Algeria appreciated the State's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, including the adoption of the new Penal Code and measures to increase birth registration of disadvantaged children.

80. Angola commended Cameroon for its adoption of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019 and the national gender policy paper, and also for the measures it had taken to fight neonatal and child mortality.

81. Argentina commended Cameroon for its national action plan to the eliminate the worst forms of child labour, and for the measures it had taken to protect women's rights.

82. Armenia praised Cameroon for its implementation of recommendations on the promotion and protection of human rights and for the development of human rights education and awareness-raising programmes.

83. Australia commended Cameroon on its new Penal Code and its continuation of the moratorium on death penalty, although remained concerned about the persistence of prosecution and violence against minority groups, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals.

84. Austria congratulated Cameroon on its adoption of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, but expressed concern about the deteriorating situation of English-speaking communities in the country.

85. Although concerned at the repressive approach taken to the crisis in the English-speaking regions, Belgium commended the progress made by Cameroon in the field of women's rights.

86. Benin welcomed the State's ratification of the ILO Convention on Occupational Safety and Health, 1981 (No.155), the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

87. Botswana praised Cameroon for its adoption of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, but was concerned about reports of political unrest and encouraged the Government to take action.

88. Brazil encouraged Cameroon to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

89. Bulgaria welcomed the progress made in legislative and institutional frameworks, public policies and the protection and integration of persons with disabilities.

90. Burkina Faso expressed satisfaction at the progress made in strengthening the legislative and institutional frameworks on human rights, in particular the adoption of the national child protection policy paper and the review of the Penal Code.

91. Burundi welcomed the Government's strategies in the fight against impunity and terrorism and its adoption of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, but called upon Cameroon to improve school enrolment rates.

92. Canada expressed concern about the tensions in the English-speaking regions and the terrorist threats in the Far North region, although it understood the security challenges that Cameroon faced. It reminded the Government of Cameroon to uphold human rights in all circumstances.

93. Expressing concern at the climate of violence persisting in the English-speaking regions and the excessive use of force against protestors, Chile urged Cameroon to take steps to ensure a safe environment for the exercise of freedom of expression and association throughout the country.

94. China complimented Cameroon on its formulation and implementation of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, and on its efforts to promote economic and social development, to reduce poverty and to protect the rights of vulnerable groups and refugees. China called upon the international community to support constructively the State in its efforts to fight terrorism.

95. The Congo acknowledged the strengthening of the regulatory framework and the State's adoption and implementation of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, and invited Cameroon to continue its initiatives in favour of vulnerable populations.

96. Finland welcomed the progress made by the State in the promotion of women's rights, but was concerned at the deterioration of the overall situation of human rights, aggravated by anti-terror laws. Finland encouraged Cameroon to give access to international human rights mechanisms, including with respect to those held in detention.

97. France expressed its concern at the fact that the situation of human rights and of fundamental freedoms was not critically questioned in most parts of the country, and therefore called upon the State to pursue efforts to improve that situation.

98. Gabon welcomed the training on human rights provided to judicial officers and public administration executives, and also the efforts made to allow all citizens access to drinking water.

99. Georgia commended Cameroon for having ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and for its adoption of the national gender policy paper.

100. Germany appreciated the amendment made to the Penal Code, but remained concerned about the persistence of violence against women and at reports of violations of freedom of the press and the right to assembly in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon.

101. Ghana urged Cameroon to finalize its ratification of regional and international human rights treaties such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

102. Haiti praised the efforts made by Cameroon to ensure universal birth registration and the protection of children against sexual exploitation, and commended the review conducted in 2016 of its legal and institutional framework.

103. Honduras complimented Cameroon for having ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and for having criminalized discrimination.

104. While appreciative of the adoption of article 242 of the Penal Code prohibiting all types of discrimination, Iceland remained concerned about the high rate of maternal mortality and the gender-based conditions in force with regard to Cameroonian nationality.

105. India welcomed the strengthening of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, the plans for combating poverty, vulnerability and exclusion, the national gender policy paper and the amendment to the Penal Code.

106. Indonesia commended Cameroon for its ratification of relevant human rights instruments and its greater efforts to protect the economic and social rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities.

107. Iraq praised Cameroon for its implementation of the National Action Plan for 2015–2019 and the employment plan for 2014–2017, and also its efforts to guarantee drinking water and to prevent discrimination against women.

108. Ireland was pleased to note the steps taken by Cameroon to combat violence against women and children, but remained concerned about reports of violence and discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and human rights defenders.

109. Morocco welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and commended Cameroon on its efforts to provide human rights training and education, to fight impunity and to promote economic, social and cultural rights.

110. Libya praised Cameroon for having adopted and implemented the National Action Plan for 2015–2019, and also for having ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

111. Lesotho praised Cameroon for the legislative measures it had taken, and its initiatives to cooperate with international and regional mechanisms for the promotion of human rights.

112. The head of the delegation thanked the delegations for their questions and recommendations and provided the following answers to some of the questions asked.

113. Cameroon had signed the Rome Statute, and internal procedures were under way in preparation for ratification. Cameroon maintained a fruitful relationship with the International Criminal Court, in particular in terms of judicial cooperation. It had hosted Court officials during their investigation missions in connection with human rights cases. Mutual assistance requests from the Office of the Prosecutor or the defence were executed by the Cameroon judicial authorities in cases in which the Cameroonian authorities had agreed to cooperate with the Court.

114. Furthermore, pursuant to significant legal reforms, serious crimes falling under the remit of the Court, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, could now be prosecuted before the military courts following the adoption of Law No. 2017/012 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the Code of Military Justice.

115. Regarding impunity, violations of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment had been reported and had been investigated, leading to disciplinary and judicial sanctions. Between 2013 and 2017, 100 police officers had been found guilty, following investigations, of acts of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and had received heavy disciplinary sanctions, including reprimands, dismissal, delayed promotion, suspension and demotion. To supplement these measures, the national mechanism for the prevention of torture in places of deprivation of liberty was being established after the mandate had been assigned to the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms.

116. Concerning the death penalty, including in cases under counter-terrorism legislation, Cameroon had, in recent years, been the victim of attacks by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram. In response, it had authorized the death penalty for the most serious offences, in particular endangering innocent lives and jeopardizing the State and its institutions, on the basis of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, whereby the death penalty could be imposed for the most serious crimes. Notwithstanding the above, Cameroon had not carried out any executions since the 1990s.

117. As for the elimination of violence against women, including female genital mutilation and forced or early marriage, Cameroon had adopted a national gender policy paper in 2014 to promote gender equality, followed by a multisectoral action plan in 2016. The legal framework had been further strengthened by the adoption of the Law of 12 July 2016.

118. Concerning the fight against violence on children, the government and his partners have been working to protect children against violence by creating institutions, providing services for children victim of violence, carrying out awareness-raising activities, providing support for victims and by prosecuting alleged perpetrators. In 2017, the government adopted the National Child Protection Policy Paper which defines the strategic framework for the protection of children in Cameroon.

119. An interministerial committee on follow-up to recommendations and/or decisions of international and regional human rights mechanisms had been established under the Office of the Prime Minister in 2013. It received the recommendations accepted by Cameroon, which it then conveyed to the various relevant ministries for implementation. Their implementation was assessed at meetings where progress was noted and challenges were discussed with the aim of taking remedial measures.

120. Lastly, the elimination of child labour and the improvement of child health through immunization were matters that Cameroon took very seriously.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

121. **The following recommendations will be examined by Cameroon, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

121.1 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to abolishing the death penalty for all crimes (Italy);**

121.2 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, and culminating in the process of eradicating the death penalty (Uruguay);**

121.3 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (Rwanda);**

121.4 **Proceed with the abolition of the death penalty by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Brazil);**

121.5 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Togo);**

121.6 **Abolish the death penalty from its legislation definitively and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile);**

121.7 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);**

121.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia) (Spain);**

121.9 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and commute all existing death sentences (Czechia);**

121.10 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq);**

121.11 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (Côte d'Ivoire);**

121.12 **Consider ratifying the conventions to which it is not yet a party, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Gabon);**

121.13 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

121.14 **Speed up the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Georgia);**

121.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and**

the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);

121.16 **Consider speeding up the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mozambique);**

121.17 **Ratify and fully implement its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);**

121.18 **Ratify without reservation the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Belgium);**

121.19 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal);**

121.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia);**

121.21 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Finland);**

121.22 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Burkina Faso);**

121.23 **Move towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

121.24 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Indonesia);**

121.25 **Take necessary measures to complete ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia);**

121.26 **Move towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

121.27 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Austria);**

121.28 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);**

121.29 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Portugal);**

121.30 **Finalize its revision of the Civil Code, ensuring that the provisions on the rights of the child are harmonized with those of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Senegal);**

121.31 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the**

Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Slovakia);

121.32 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Slovenia);**

121.33 **Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Botswana);**

121.34 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Togo);**

121.35 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Uganda);**

121.36 **Ratify the international human rights legal instruments to which it is not a party, and further strengthen its cooperation with the treaty bodies (Niger);**

121.37 **Adhere to the human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Honduras);**

121.38 **Strengthen the work of the Technical Council on Labour Migration in examining the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

121.39 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Lesotho);**

121.40 **Complete the process of ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uganda);**

121.41 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Congo);**

121.42 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Benin);**

121.43 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

121.44 **Speedily incorporate the international conventions ratified by Cameroon into national law, and implement action plans and laws (South Africa);**

121.45 **Accept visits by relevant special procedures, and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the Human Rights Council (Slovakia);**

121.46 **Continue to strengthen its policies in the field of human rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

121.47 **Continue to implement awareness-raising activities on ownership of human rights principles by the various stakeholders (Ethiopia);**

121.48 Continue implementation of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Sudan);

121.49 Provide the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms with adequate resources to enable it to carry out its mandate (Ghana);

121.50 Provide support for capacity-building and human rights actors (Sudan);

121.51 Adopt legislation to protect human rights defenders and journalists (Czechia);

121.52 Consider repealing provisions that criminalize homosexuality (Italy);

121.53 Pursue its efforts to strengthen civil and political rights as well as the social, economic and cultural rights of its people (Mauritius);

121.54 Expedite the establishment process of a formal framework for dialogue between civil society human rights organizations and the Government (Indonesia);

121.55 Continue its capacity-building programme for the State and civil society actors with respect to human rights (Mali);

121.56 Take further steps to finalize the various pending legislative and institutional initiatives that will contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights, including the national family policy paper and the national child protection policy paper, and update the Civil Code, among other things (Namibia);

121.57 Apply measures to strengthen national human rights institutions (Nepal);

121.58 Ensure transparency of and provide information on the human rights situation in the English-speaking region, inter alia by allowing the United Nations and national and international human rights institutions and organizations access to the region (Netherlands);

121.59 Grant the International Committee of the Red Cross or other reputable international agencies access to English-speaking separatist leaders extradited from Nigeria and detained incommunicado since January (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

121.60 Investigate all cases of disappearance of political opposition representatives, including members of the English-speaking minority, and take all adequate measures to find them and enable them to return safely to their homes (Poland);

121.61 Ensure the effective implementation of the official bilingualism policy in consultation with all stakeholders, in order to assure equal treatment to the English-speaking minority and to eliminate marginalization in all its forms (Haiti);

121.62 Redouble its efforts to effectively implement its bilingualism policy in order to ensure that the English-speaking population does not suffer from discrimination in employment, education or access to legal services (Honduras);

121.63 Observe the right of its citizens to express their views in dealing with the problems of the English-speaking provinces (Czechia);

121.64 Initiate a multi-stakeholder dialogue at the political level with the various stakeholders in the English-speaking communities in order to identify appropriate measures to respond adequately to the violence affecting the Southwest and Northwest areas of the country (Austria);

121.65 Expressly engage in a sustained dialogue with the representatives of the English-speaking community on the crisis in the North-west and South-west

regions of the country to reach a consensual solution that upholds human rights (Canada);

121.66 **Redouble efforts for the full and effective implementation of the official bilingual policy, and ensure that the English-speaking minority is not subject to inequality in access to public services, the administration of justice, and freedom of speech (Republic of Korea);**

121.67 **Mobilize resources and seek the international assistance necessary to enhance its capacity to uphold human rights, in line with its international obligations (Nigeria);**

121.68 **Take further positive measures to better protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);**

121.69 **Intensify efforts to combat discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS (Lesotho);**

121.70 **Adopt measures to eliminate discrimination against vulnerable senior citizens and persons with disabilities, in particular older women and women with disabilities (Ghana);**

121.71 **Continue efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women and ethnic minorities (Senegal);**

121.72 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and to promote gender equality and the implementation of the national strategy to combat gender-based violence (South Africa);**

121.73 **Adopt effective measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the most vulnerable and neglected groups of women, in particular older women, women with disabilities, rural women and refugee women (Madagascar);**

121.74 **Decriminalize homosexuality, punished under article 347 bis of the Penal Code (France);**

121.75 **Decriminalize same-sex relations by replacing article 347-1 of the Penal Code, and initiate a campaign to raise awareness in the public about homosexuality (Germany);**

121.76 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct between adults, and take all necessary steps to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community from all forms of discrimination and violence (Ireland);**

121.77 **Review the Penal Code with a view to decriminalizing homosexuality (Spain);**

121.78 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex, and combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico);**

121.79 **Decriminalize consensual sex between adults of the same sex, and any other discriminatory practice based on sexual orientation or gender identity, protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and guaranteeing their fundamental rights (Uruguay);**

121.80 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Australia);**

121.81 **Ensure the protection and security of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and of human rights defenders committed to their cause (Switzerland);**

121.82 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations and immediately cease targeted discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America);**

121.83 **Eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community from violence and harassment (Netherlands);**

121.84 **Take the necessary measures to protect and prevent discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, as previously recommended (Argentina);**

121.85 **Review laws that discriminate against women, in particular articles 1421 and 1428 of the Civil Code relating to the administration of family assets (Mexico);**

121.86 **Ensure universal birth registration without discrimination by developing information systems with solid databases that would include information on the number of people yet to be registered, creating mobile registration units to reach the most remote areas, and conducting campaigns to inform all families about deadlines and ways to register their children (Mexico);**

121.87 **Eliminate all discriminatory provisions from the Nationality Code relating to the acquisition of nationality by children born outside wedlock and the naturalization of children with disabilities (Portugal);**

121.88 **Ensure that women have equal rights to nationality as men under the Nationality Code (Republic of Korea);**

121.89 **Review the Nationality Code to ensure that men and women have equal rights in the area of nationality (Côte d'Ivoire);**

121.90 **Continue its efforts aimed at combating all forms of discrimination in its population (Nigeria);**

121.91 **Revise the antiterrorist law of 2014 in accordance with international human rights standards and obligations (Poland);**

121.92 **Formally abolish the death penalty by amending its Penal Code and counter-terrorism laws (Australia);**

121.93 **Review and amend the 2014 antiterrorism law to ensure that it is not used to restrict freedom of expression, assembly and association (Switzerland);**

121.94 **Review the texts relating to counter-terrorism by providing a more specific definition of terrorism (France);**

121.95 **Review, with the full participation of all stakeholders concerned, before the upcoming review cycle, the 2014 counter-terrorism law in order to harmonize it with all international standards on human rights and the right to a fair trial (Haiti);**

121.96 **Amend the 2014 antiterrorism law to bring the definition of terrorism into line with international human rights obligations and standards, repeal the death penalty, and end the use of military tribunals to try civilians (Canada);**

121.97 **Maintain the existing moratorium on judicial executions, and consider commuting all current death penalty sentences to other forms of punishment (Namibia);**

121.98 **Finalize the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);**

121.99 **Improve the implementation of the right to a fair trial and access to justice (France);**

121.100 **Comply with procedural rights in trials, thus ensuring a fair trial for everyone, also in cases of alleged terrorism (Germany);**

121.101 **Consider reasonable time frames for preventive detention (France);**

121.102 Combat impunity by undertaking prompt, independent, effective and impartial investigations into allegations of human rights violations and crimes under international law by those held to account in accordance with international fair trial standards and the rule of law and without recourse to the death penalty, and ensure redress for victims (New Zealand);

121.103 Acknowledge and investigate credible allegations of human rights violations and abuses, and hold those responsible to account (United States of America);

121.104 Allow independent international and regional human rights investigators unhindered access to investigate and monitor human rights violations, including through unannounced inspection visits, to all places of detention (New Zealand);

121.105 Take appropriate measures to align conditions of detention with international standards (Italy);

121.106 Pursue efforts to prevent torture and to improve prison conditions (Morocco);

121.107 Release all those arbitrarily detained, make every effort to ensure the human rights of prisoners and detainees are fully observed, and ensure an end to practices of torture and illegal detention (New Zealand);

121.108 Ensure that civilians are not tried by military courts (Poland);

121.109 Put an end to incommunicado detention and ensure that no person is deprived of liberty in secret or placed in unofficial detention facilities (Republic of Korea);

121.110 End the practice of incommunicado detention and ensure that no one is detained in a secret or officially unrecognized place, including unregistered military detention centres (Austria);

121.111 Carry out investigations into alleged torture and ill-treatment of detained persons, ban incommunicado detention and enact laws aiming at the prevention of torture in places of detention (Czechia);

121.112 Investigate thoroughly all cases of the use of excessive force against demonstrators and participants in public gatherings, and all cases of torture and illegal detention by security forces (Poland);

121.113 Lift unnecessary restrictions on freedom of assembly, investigate the alleged excessive use of force in dispersing demonstrations and ensure that arrested protestors receive a fair trial (Australia);

121.114 Take appropriate measures to ensure that security forces comply with international human rights laws and standards, including by conducting independent and transparent investigations into allegations of excessive use of force and by prosecuting perpetrators (Belgium);

121.115 Guarantee the protection of the civilian population by ensuring that reported cases of violations and abuses committed by the security forces are independently investigated and their perpetrators brought to justice (Switzerland);

121.116 Investigate all reported cases of violations and abuses, and hold perpetrators to account in accordance with the rule of law, in the context of concerns raised about arbitrary arrests, excessive violence and extrajudicial executions by government forces, armed groups against members of the country's English-speaking minority, and allegations of torture of detainees suspected of belonging to terrorist groups (Slovakia);

121.117 Endeavour to end all use of arbitrary arrest and detention of citizens, and the use of torture and other cruel treatment (Botswana);

121.118 Release prisoners deprived of their liberty for peacefully protesting (Poland);

121.119 Take the necessary legal measures, before the next elections, to enable electoral judges to consider as admissible copies of minutes submitted to parties in polling stations (Canada);

121.120 Fully respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression, association and of assembly, including by lifting restrictions on mobile and Internet services unless provided for by law, and comply with international human rights law and standards on the use of force (New Zealand);

121.121 Ensure freedom of expression, freedom of access to information and the right to assembly (Spain);

121.122 Adopt measures to guarantee the freedom of the press and its diversity by allowing free access to media and information (Germany);

121.123 Ensure that any restrictions on freedom of assembly and demonstration are in line with international obligations (Austria);

121.124 Ensure the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly for all, including journalists, human rights defenders and opposition party members, and lift any restrictions on these rights that are not in line with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Finland);

121.125 Take all necessary measures to enable human rights defenders, journalists and other members of civil society to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal, and free of all restrictions (Ireland);

121.126 Respect the rights to peaceful assembly, and freedoms of association and expression, including when exercised online, and afford all of those detained all the rights enshrined in Cameroon's constitution and under international law (United States of America);

121.127 Adopt concrete measures to strengthen the participation of women and minority groups in public life (Angola);

121.128 Take steps for the adequate representation of women in political life, and encourage their economic empowerment (Bulgaria);

121.129 Consider after 2019 extending the decent work country programme signed with ILO in October 2014 (Haiti);

121.130 Support and enhance efforts to promote women's rights, paying particular attention to ensuring equal opportunities in the labour market (Mali);

121.131 Intensify efforts to improve work conditions for women workers (Iraq);

121.132 Continue efforts to ensure gender equality, in particular in the labour market (Tunisia);

121.133 Effectively implement the measures taken against violence against women and in the promotion of equality of men and women, particularly in access to employment (Djibouti);

121.134 Make a greater effort and devote more resources to programmes aimed at promoting employment for young people and women, especially through training and vocational education (Viet Nam);

121.135 Improve the implementation of social protection programmes that provide assistance to the most vulnerable Cameroonians (Djibouti);

121.136 Continue social programmes to combat poverty and inequality, in order to provide the best possible quality of life for its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

121.137 Continue to promote economic, social sustainable development, implement poverty reduction strategies and raise people's living standards (China);

121.138 Continue to promote the health sector (Egypt);

121.139 Speed up the implementation of health coverage for all (Gabon);

121.140 Take measures leading to the eradication of all forms of discrimination in health-care settings, including in the context of HIV/AIDS, by ensuring that the Ministry of Public Health develops strategic documents that take into account the human right to health (Portugal);

121.141 Adopt comprehensive legislative and political measures to ensure access to health services for persons with HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive education for women and girls, particularly in rural areas (Honduras);

121.142 Strengthen the implementation of measures to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child (Angola);

121.143 Provide a sufficient number of health centres and hospitals throughout the country (Serbia);

121.144 Continue to improve health infrastructure and access to health care, especially for the rural population (Togo);

121.145 Further intensify its efforts to ensure right of access to health care for all, in particular access to medical care for women (Viet Nam);

121.146 Take all necessary action to reduce maternal mortality (Afghanistan);

121.147 Decriminalize abortion and repeal section 339 (2) of the amended Penal Code to remove the requirement of obtaining certification from a prosecutor before an abortion can be legally obtained (Iceland);

121.148 Pursuant to the strategy paper for the education sector in Cameroon for 2013–2020, continue to increase the enrolment rate in primary and secondary schools and improve the quality of education (Bulgaria);

121.149 Continue efforts to implement the strategy paper for the education sector for 2013–2020 in order to improve school enrolment rates (Libya);

121.150 Guarantee all children an equal footing in access to free primary education (Congo);

121.151 Take further measures to improve children's access to education, without discrimination (Armenia);

121.152 Set up a national action plan and a strategy aimed at ensuring that minorities have access to appropriate school programmes that respect their way of life and their culture (Madagascar);

121.153 Ensure that access to education for children from minorities is guaranteed and respected, without discrimination (Madagascar);

121.154 Ratify the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (Madagascar);

121.155 Move towards the ratification of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

121.156 Accelerate the process of the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan);

121.157 Adopt measures preventing sexual harassment by teachers and child marriage, which lead to high dropout rates of girls in secondary schools (Poland);

121.158 Step up efforts to raise the school enrolment rate for girls (Lesotho);

121.159 Take steps to effectively ensure the equality of girls and young women at all levels of education, and their retention in schooling (Portugal);

121.160 Take measures to provide free primary education and equal access for all children (Serbia);

121.161 Take measures to increase the attendance rate of girls in secondary education (Togo);

121.162 Ensure that girls and young women have equal access to all levels of education (Iceland);

121.163 Fully implement article 356 of the 2016 Penal Code, and criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage (Namibia);

121.164 Continue to fight against female genital mutilation through the implementation of the five-year action plan adopted in 2011 and reviewed in 2016 (Burkina Faso);

121.165 Strengthen its efforts to promote women's rights, particularly in combating gender-based violence and discriminatory practices related to marriage, and collect data disaggregated by gender (Brazil);

121.166 Fight further against the practice of early and forced marriage (Belgium);

121.167 Complete the drafting of the national family policy paper in order to adequately address the issue of early and forced marriage (Zimbabwe);

121.168 Repeal all discriminatory provisions in marriage and family relations, and adopt legal provisions that criminalize female genital mutilation (Spain);

121.169 Pursue all efforts to enhance women's empowerment (Egypt);

121.170 Take necessary measures to ensure effective access to justice for women (Ukraine);

121.171 Continue efforts to eliminate discriminatory and harmful traditional practices against women and girls (Nepal);

121.172 Assign human, technical and financial resources to the national action plan against female genital mutilation in order to protect the human rights of women and girls (Honduras);

121.173 Strengthen the implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices, in particular child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and ensure that cases of domestic violence are investigated and prosecuted (Rwanda);

121.174 Adopt legal provisions specifically criminalizing female genital mutilation, breast ironing and discriminatory widowhood rites, and include adequate sanctions for perpetrators of such acts (Iceland);

121.175 Strengthen measures to investigate and punish perpetrators of practices or acts of violence against women, such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage (Argentina);

121.176 Intensify awareness-raising campaigns throughout the territory to eradicate the practices of female genital mutilation and forced marriage, involving all social actors, including religious and community leaders (Chile);

121.177 Continue to combat early and forced marriage by raising awareness of families and local communities (Libya);

121.178 Strengthen the fight against gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Algeria);

121.179 Adopt a law on violence against women, and repeal legal provisions that eliminate the crime of rape if the perpetrator marries the victim (Spain);

121.180 Prohibit all forms of domestic violence against women, especially rape in marriage, as the new Penal Code does not cover all forms of violence against women (Germany);

121.181 Redouble efforts to eliminate any form of discrimination and violence against women, implementing positive actions and awareness-raising campaigns on the subject (Uruguay);

121.182 Provide women greater access to legal resources, and psychosocial and medical assistance (Spain);

121.183 Continue to prioritize child protection as a fundamental priority for the State (South Africa);

121.184 Ensure full and effective implementation of the 2017 national action plan for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

121.185 Accelerate the process of updating the Civil Code with a view to enhancing the protection of children's rights (Zimbabwe);

121.186 Revise current legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);

121.187 Enact legislation to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Namibia);

121.188 Establish the minimum age for marriage at 18 years for both girls and boys (Montenegro);

121.189 Continue to fight early child marriage (Tunisia);

121.190 Pursue efforts to combat early or forced marriage and violence against children (Morocco);

121.191 Adopt public policies to eradicate the recruitment of children by armed groups, including strategies for the rehabilitation and reintegration of such children into society in accordance with international human rights standards (Chile);

121.192 Redouble efforts to arrest and bring to justice the perpetrators of the kidnapping of children for the purpose of selling organs or magic practices (Congo);

121.193 Further continue the implementation of its policy for the integration of persons with disabilities at the strategic and operational levels (Ethiopia);

121.194 Strengthen its policies towards ensuring full protection for the rights of minorities (Georgia);

121.195 Take the necessary measures to protect refugee and displaced women against all forms of exploitation (Algeria);

121.196 Allow and facilitate unhindered humanitarian assistance wherever required to provide relief for the affected population (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

122. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Cameroon was headed by H.E MBELLA MBELLA, Minister of External Relations and composed of the following members:

- H.E Anatole Fabien Marie NKOU, Ambassadeur, Representant Permanent du Cameroun aupres des Nations Unies à Geneve;
- Monsieur Aimé Parfait BIKORO, Chargé de Mission, Premier Minister;
- Madame Helene GALEGA, Directeur des Droits de l'Homme, Magistrate, Ministere de la Justice;
- Madame Cecile MBALLA EYENGA, Directeur des Nations Unies, Ministere des Relations Exterieures;
- Monsieur Aurelien ETEKI, Directeur des Affaires d'Europe, Ministere des Relations Exterieures;
- Monsieur Bertin BIDIMA, Premier Secretaire, Mission Permanente du Cameroun, Geneve.